



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Ukrainczyk, et al.

Serial No: 09/832668

Art Group Unit: 1731

Filing Date: April 11, 2001

Examiner: John Hoffmann

Title: FILAMENT HOUSING FOR FIBER
SPlicing AND LENS FABRICATION
PROCESSES

RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In the Office Action dated November 18, 2003, designated as Paper No. 31113 in the above-captioned application, the Examiner issued a Restriction Requirement identifying the following groups of claims as being drawn to potentially distinct inventions:

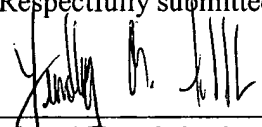
- Group I. Claims 1-18, drawn to an apparatus for a fusion process, classified in class 65, subclass 501;
- Group II. Claims 19-28, drawn to a method for extending a lifetime of a filament, classified in class 65 subclass 387.

Applicants hereby elect Group I, without traverse.

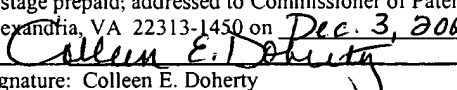
Please direct any questions or comments to Timothy M. Schaeberle at 607-974-3164.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 12-3-03



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hereby certify that this paper and any papers referred to herein are
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Signature: Colleen E. Doherty